Mammoth Lakes
CALIFORNIA

Town of Mammoth Lakes

2023 Year in Review

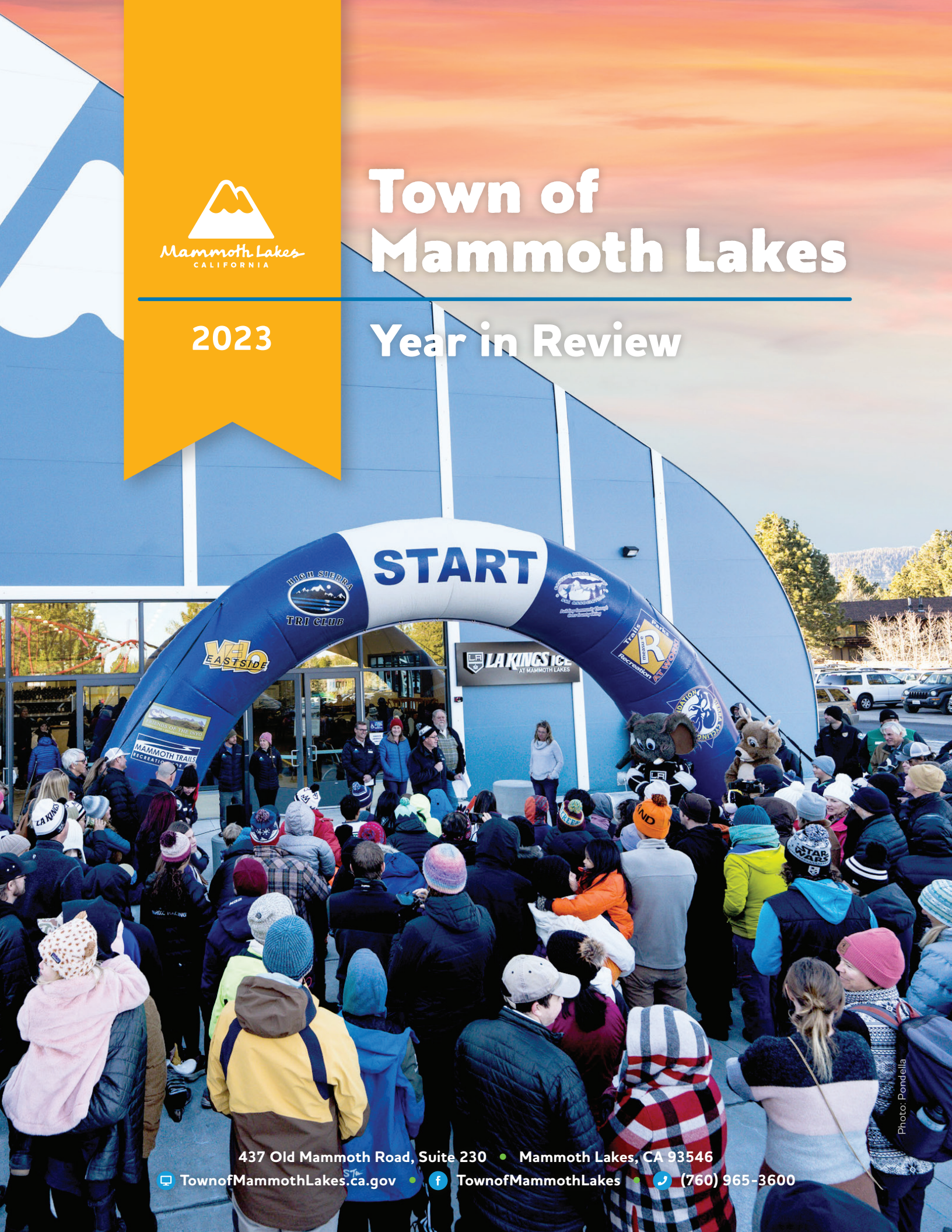

Photo: Pondella

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TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES • 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

DANIEL C. HOLLER, TOWN MANAGER

2023 was a year of opportunity and success punctuated by the record-setting 2023 winter storms, which resulted in local, State and Federal Disaster Declarations. The coordinated response to these storms by the Town of Mammoth Lakes employees and our local, regional, and State partners was critical. These efforts no doubt saved lives, kept the Town operating, businesses open and residents and visitors safe. The Town provided financial support for our small, local businesses, assisted local non-profits in delivering critical services and initiated substantial emergency repairs to our local infrastructure. Additional repair work resulting from these damaging storms will continue well into 2024.

The Town continued to focus on projects, programs and services supporting The Town Council's Strategic Priorities. These efforts are reflected in the ongoing implementation of the Housing Now! initiative, infrastructure investment, and enhancements to community amenities in Town and in partnership with the United States Forest Service (USFS). A capstone for the year was the opening of the new Community Recreation Center (CRC) on "Ice Friday," November 24. The 40,000 square foot facility is the new home of LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes in winter and the Mammoth RecZone in summer.

The accomplishments highlighted throughout this report reflect the quality, dedication, creativity and talent of the Town's employees. Each and every employee is proud of the work achieved in serving Mammoth Lakes residents, businesses, and visitors. It is through their efforts that the goals and priorities of the Town Council and expectations of the community are accomplished.

HOUSING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE PARCEL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

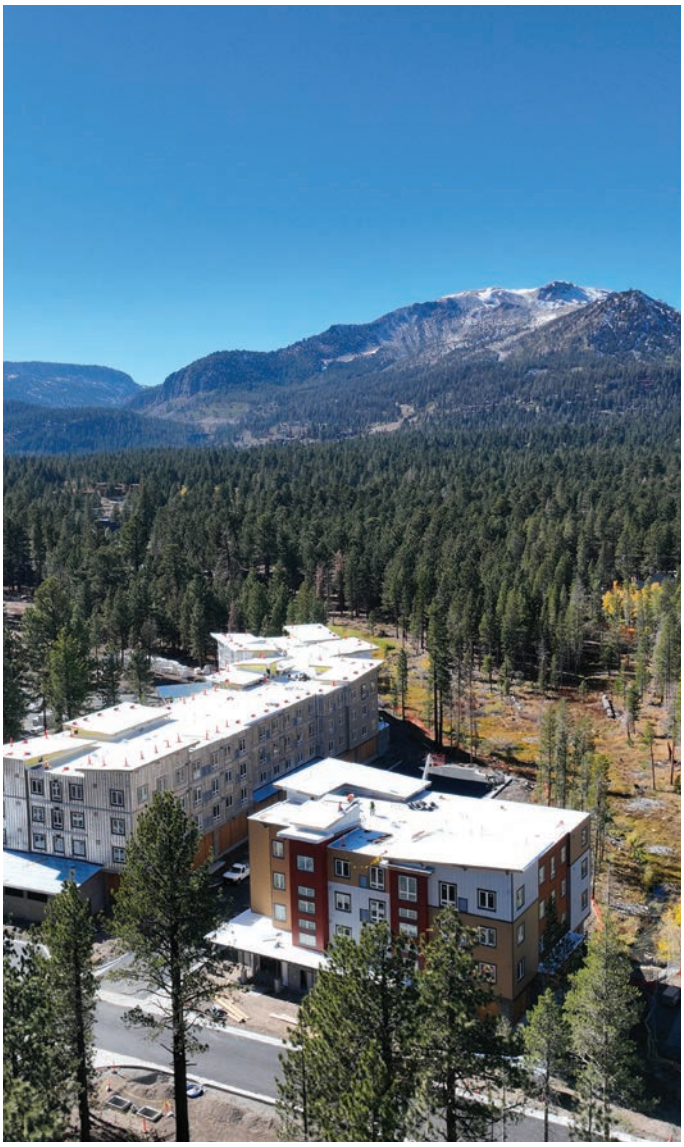
Significant progress was made on construction of The Parcel. By the end of 2023, site improvements and building construction were substantially completed.

Phase 1 (The Sawyer) includes 81 units (80 affordable and 1 manager's unit) consisting of studio, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom units. Construction began in fall 2020 and is anticipated to be completed in summer 2024. In addition to the affordable units, The Sawyer will include a childcare facility for up to 34 children and a public park incorporating a new National Demonstration Site 5-12 year old playground, climbing dome, pavilion, picnic area, slack line, and a winterized restroom.

Phase 2 (The Kingfisher) consists of 148 units (146 affordable and 1-2 manager's units), which will be separated into two phases. Phase 2.1 will consist of 72 units while Phase 2.2 will have 76 units. Tree removal was completed in fall 2023 in anticipation of site grading and construction will begin in spring 2024. In 2023, the Town and its development partner, Pacific West Communities, were successful in securing approximately $30M from state and federal funding sources to begin construction of Phase 2.2 of the project.

Phase 3 of The Parcel will be an ownership phase with approximately 50 units that will be available to households earning up to 200% Area Medium Income (AMI). Staff have been working with the developer in 2023 to refine their plans for Phase 3 and expect an entitlement application in 2024.

THE PARCEL



INNSBRUCK LODGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

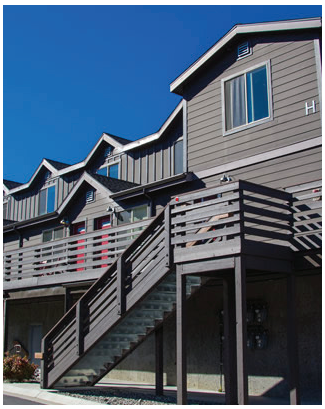
The Innsbruck Lodge Affordable Housing project is a partnership project between the Town and Eastern Sierra Community Housing (formerly Mammoth Lakes Housing) that will convert the existing Innsbruck Lodge into 16 apartments (15 affordable and 1 manager's unit) that will be affordable to households earning up to 80% AMI who are struggling to find housing in our community. Construction began in 2023 and includes a complete remodel of the interior of the building, including all new electrical and plumbing components. Occupancy of approximately half of the units is expected in spring 2024, with the remainder being available later in 2024. The project is being funded from a variety of sources including the State Homekey program, the Town, and Mono County.

HOUSING NOW!

SMALL-SITE DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, construction began on the Town's initial small-site development project located at 60 Joaquin Road. The project includes the development of two duplex structures containing a total of four residential units that will be 'for sale' units available to households earning up to 150% AMI. Construction will recommence in spring 2024 with a target occupancy date of fall 2024. The Town also acquired two additional vacant sites in 2023 that will allow for additional future development, pending funding availability.

60 Joaquin



BRIDGE PROGRAM

The Town, together with Eastern Sierra Community Housing, launched the Bridge Program in late 2021 with the goal of increasing the number of affordable deed-restricted ownership units in the community. The program acquires market rate units that are then resold to individuals at a subsidized rate with a deed restriction in place to ensure they remain in the affordable housing stock for the Town. Through the Bridge Program, two residential units were sold in 2023 to income eligible households with deed restrictions that guarantee the continued affordability of the units. One additional unit was also acquired that will be resold to an income eligible household in the near future. Four unsold units will be listed for sale in early 2024. The Town is constantly looking for additional units to add to the Bridge Program.

SHORT TERM RENTAL (STR) MORATORIUM

In October 2023, the Town Council adopted a moratorium on the issuance of new Short-Term Rental (STR) certificates in defined zoning areas within the Town. This action was in response to the significant and increasing shortage of housing that is accessible to the local workforce, along with the need to protect the health, safety and welfare that results from the lack of available and affordable housing to the local workforce and residents. As a part of the work program to analyze the impacts of STRs, the Town Council appointed an STR Advisory Committee in November 2023 to provide recommendations to the Town Council intended to alleviate some of the housing issues caused by STRs. The recommendations from the STR Advisory Committee were presented to the Town Council in early 2024 and the moratorium is slated to end in the March of 2024. An additional element of the moratorium has been the development of the Certified Property Program that will provide enhanced management of STRs introduced to address various quality of life issues related to STRs.

RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER NOW OPEN!

Over 800 people celebrated the official opening of the Community Recreation Center (CRC) at Mammoth Creek Park on "Ice Friday," November 24. Outside the 40,000 square foot CRC and under the Measure R inflatable arch, Mammoth Lakes Mayor Pro-Tem, Bill Sauser and former Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, Betsy Truax cut the ceremonial ribbon and officially opened the facility to the public. Both officials have been championing this project for the past decade and never stopped pushing hard for a facility that the entire community would be proud to call their own.

For more than 20 years, the Town has been actively searching for a permanent home for an indoor ice rink and multi-use facility that would enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors with year-round access to high-quality and innovative indoor recreational programs and activities. After breaking ground on April 21, 2021, the community was excited to celebrate phase one of this new year-round recreation facility funded by Measure R and U special use taxes in 2023!

The CRC is a Sprung Performance Arena enclosing the brand new LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes. The CRC will be open and available to the public year-round, with LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes operating annually each winter season between the months of October and April. During the summer months, the rink will be transformed into the Mammoth RecZone, a 3-court gymnasium, serving as the hub for the expanding Parks and Recreation Department's summer camps and programs, as well as a multitude of court sports, events and activities for residents and visitors to Mammoth Lakes.

Learn more about the CRC and *LA Kings Ice* at Mammoth Lakes at: **townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/979/CRC**.

LA KINGS ICE AT MAMMOTH LAKES

2023 SUMMER CAMPS - "THE GREATEST SINGLE DAY OF CAMP IN MY LIFE!"

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted over 650 campers supported by 18 staff members over 9 weeks of summer camp awesomeness. Campers got a chance to explore the Sierras by biking, hiking, paddleboarding, skateboarding, swimming, and climbing all over the region. And we don't stop with adventure sports, we also pack a punch in the environmental education and arts realms! Parks and Recreation is always striving to elevate the quality of our programs, and in 2023, the Department introduced Backpacking 201, Gymnastics Camp, Wilderness Camp, and Camp Mammoth to rave reviews!

The whole summer is one big highlight reel, but to pick out a few memorable moments, we would have to go with: Backpacking Camp's fresh fish dinner, the popsicle forest, ice cream in the backcountry, and snowball fights in August. After an exciting summer of camps, the Parks and Recreation Department jumped right into fall programming, bringing back bike squad, skate squad, and SOLD OUT gymnastics classes to the community. Is there a better way to end your school day than to get picked up by staff and go biking or skateboarding? We think not!

TOWN RENOVATES TENNIS COURTS AND OPENS NEW COMMUNITY PICKLEBALL COMPLEX

To celebrate the rehabilitation of the new tennis courts and expansion of pickleball in Mammoth Lakes, the Town Council held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 4 for the tennis courts and officially opened the new Pickleball Complex to the public.

COMMUNITY TENNIS COURTS

On September 7, 2022, Town Council allocated $175,000 to repair and reopen tennis courts #5/6 at the Community Center that were closed for several years due to unsafe playing conditions. After a detailed analysis of the many playing surfaces by staff and local tennis players, and deliberation by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the new SportGame™ Sport Court Pickleball surface was selected. Sport Court suspended modular surfaces require little or no maintenance, eliminate cracks, deliver the best shock absorption compared to other traditional outdoor surfaces, is the official court of USTA Tennis, and has an estimated 25-30 year surface life that comes with a 15-year warranty (100% recyclable) - a critical factor in selecting a surface for our extreme conditions and deteriorating and aging court surface.

In addition to the rehabilitation of courts #5/6, two new sets of net posts and tennis nets were installed, one additional pickleball court was striped on court #2, and in an effort to encourage multiple recreation uses, one fixed height all-weather basketball system was installed on court #1 and the other replaced the older backboard at Shady Rest Park.

NEW PICKLEBALL COMPLEX

The new Pickleball Complex officially opened for play on September 29! With the new Community Recreation Center now open at Mammoth Creek Park, the Town no longer operates the former outdoor Ice Rink and with a new lease from the Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD) and Mono County Office or Education (MCOE), the Town converted the outdoor ice rink site to a community Pickleball Complex. Funds for this project totaling $100,000 were approved by Town Council as part of the FY2022/23 Town Budget process. The six regulation pickleball courts are open between the hours of 8am and dusk during spring, summer and fall. MUSD/MCOE and Town Parks and Recreation Department have priority use and Parks and Recreation staff will be looking to expand pickleball opportunities in 2024.

All Recreation ★ All The Time!

PARK AT THE PARCEL

This project will build a play area for childcare operations and a public park for the residents and neighbors of The Parcel affordable housing project. On May 17, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to execute an agreement for the purchase and installation of playground equipment and park amenities at the Park at the Parcel in the amount of $548,000. Funding for this project was derived from the Town's general fund and a California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) GameTime Healthy Play grant. Parks and Recreation staff received this prestigious award from the President of CPRS and GameTime representatives at the annual CPRS Conference in Palm Springs. The Park at the Parcel will include a National Demonstration Site 5–12-year-old playground, climbing dome, picnic pavilion, slack lines, concrete seat walls, amphitheater seating, bike rack and a winterized prefabricated restroom with a drinking fountain/bottle filler.

COMMUNITY DOG PARK

On July 6, 2022, the Town Council unanimously approved an agreement that outlines a planning effort for a community dog park on property owned by the Mammoth Lakes Foundation. The dog park will be located close to Town multi-use paths (MUPs) and will include a 1-acre fenced off-leash dog park for both small and big dogs with associated park amenities including parking, water, seating, shade and restrooms. The Town has set aside $200,000 specifically for the dog park, of which, $50,000 was received from the T-Mobile grant. The Town started grading work for the project in the fall of 2023.

OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRAIL DAYS SUMMER OF STEWARDSHIP

It's been an inspiring summer of stewardship on the Mammoth Lakes Trail System! 2023 activities included the National Trail Days on June 3, ongoing Trail Crew, Host, and Water Host opportunities, and the Annual Lakes Basin Cleanup held on September 23.

National Trail Days

- 70 volunteers collected 150+ pounds of trash and rehabilitated several soft surface trails.

Trail Crew, Host, and Water Host Opportunities

- Trail Crew volunteers (44.5 hours) installed signs, constructed Black Bear Run and performed soft-surface trail maintenance.
- Water Host volunteers (33 hours) removed fishing line.
- Host volunteers (18 hours) collected litter and interacted with trail users.

Annual Lakes Basin Cleanup

- 70 volunteers collected 115 pounds of trash, 20 pounds of recycling, 150+ feet of fishing line and sanded and painted eight picnic tables.

TRASHY THURSDAYS

In partnership with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Mammoth Lakes Recreation and Waste Connections, the Office of Outdoor Recreation supported weekly stewardship cleanups throughout Town. Trashy Thursdays is in its third summer continuing to gain momentum. In 2023, volunteers (199 hours) collected 629.5 pounds trash, 67.6 pounds of recycling, and picked up 20.5 pounds of dog waste.

ADOPT A TRAIL

In partnership with Mammoth Lakes Recreation, the Eastern Sierra Adopt A Trail Program continues into its fourth year. In 2023, volunteers (441 hours) collected 1,130 pounds of trash, 143 pounds of dog waste, 1,010+ feet of fishing line and had 331 interactions with other users providing MLTS information, wayfinding, and pleasantries.

OUTDOOR RECREATION HOST

14 staff members made up the 2023 Summer Host Team - the largest ever! Hosts worked at the Lake Mary Road Closure, Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Lake George, Twin Lakes, Mammoth Creek Park, Shady Rest Park and throughout Town. Hosts also supported the Summer of Stewardship programs, Trashy Thursdays, Facelift and distributed information on other outdoor recreation activities throughout the community. The Host team was out in the field six days a week interacting with users, cleaning up trash, and collecting data. From June 1 – September 4, the Host team reported 19,155 interactions with users, observed 79% of dogs on leash (1 in 5 dogs off leash!), cleaned up over 1,253 pounds of trash, and 246 pounds of pet waste. The Host team observed hikers/walkers as the largest user group followed by e-bikers, bikers, then fishermen.

EMPHASIS ON E-BIKE SAFETY

The proliferation of eBikes and other modes of transportation has resulted in congestion and dangerous conditions on Town multi-use pathways (MUPs), sidewalks, and trails. In December 2023, the Town introduced an ordinance to govern MUPs, sidewalks, and trails with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department issuing citations and educating the public regarding the use of eBikes and other related modes of transportation. This ordinance will help to ensure a safer environment on MUPs, sidewalks, and trails along with providing better opportunities to educate our locals and visitors on the use of these amenities.

TRAIL CREW

We had an amazing trail crew of four staff members, including one returning and three new members. We started the season by assessing damage across the trail system. The winter of 2022/23 was a big one that led to some significant runoff/melt events in the spring. Fortunately, our trails held up very well. The crews only found one major erosion event on the bottom 0.3 miles of the Mammoth Rock Trail and were able to fix it during our first volunteer event of the season.

Persistent snow kept the crew from being able to work on many of our trails during the early summer months, so the crews pivoted and partnered with the Inyo National Forest, Mono County, and Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps to fix an eroded trench in the top section of Lower Rock Creek trail. This was an amazing collaborative opportunity among recreation managers in the Eastern Sierra. The partners were able to literally move mountains of rock and dirt to rehabilitate the trail in one week!

The crew worked on sections of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System to log out the many trees that had fallen across the trails during the winter and complete minor repairs throughout the trail network. Crews focused on constructing the new Black Bear Run trail in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. This 0.75-mile trail had been roughly cut during the previous season using a mini-excavator and this season crews worked on establishing backslope, widening turn radii and completing segments that were too steep for the mini-excavator. Volunteers assisted on Wednesday evenings, making great progress on the trail work.

As the season was wrapping up, crews conducted a full assessment of sign conditions on both soft surface trails and paved multi-use paths (MUPs). This assessment is a critical tool for informing our replacement and maintenance program across our system. Signs that were damaged due to the abnormally large winter of 2022/23 will be eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

FUELS REDUCTION WORK

During the summer of 2023, fuels reduction work was completed on several Town-owned parcels, including the Bell Shaped Parcel and Mammoth Creek parcels. The fuels reduction work was part of the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP), also known as the "Mammoth Donut Project." The ESCCRP is a collaborative forest restoration project aiming to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire and to restore resilience to 58,000 acres in the Inyo National Forest and undeveloped, non-federal, parcels within the Town of Mammoth Lakes municipal boundary. Through CALFIRE Forest Health Grant Program funding and in partnership with the Town, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, City of Los Angeles, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Whitebark Institute conducted fuels reduction on three parcels within Mammoth Lakes that were identified as high to very high fire risk to wildfire: Bell-shaped Parcel, Camp High Sierra, and Mammoth Creek Parcels. The process included removal of live, dead, and infested trees with mechanical equipment to increase stand vigor and reduce future tree mortality induced by tree competition for water. Left untreated, the mortality in these parcels will likely continue to propagate from pests and pathogens posing a continued fire threat to the community. Logs will be removed from the site upon project completion. Slash material (limbs and branches) will be chipped and remain on the site for soil stabilization. Additionally, we were tasked with the falling of over 200 hazard trees along the paved bike path in the Lakes Basin. This was a great opportunity to put our newly acquired USFS training to use. Crews felled over 100 mostly standing dead lodgepole pine and bucked them into firewood with the assistance of our friends from the CALFIRE inmate crews from Round Valley. The USFS opened up the Lakes Basin for firewood collection and all of the material rapidly disappeared.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LAUREL MOUNTAIN SIDEWALK PROJECT

In late 2021, Town of Mammoth Lakes staff awarded Cardno with a design contract for the Laurel Mountain Road Rehabilitation and Sidewalk Project. The project addressed the existing condition of the roadway, lack of pedestrian safety, and forthcoming increases in pedestrian/community needs resulting from development of The Parcel. The nearly $3 million project was completed in 2023 and rehabilitated approximately 1,800 linear feet of existing asphalt pavement roadway, between Main Street and Sierra Nevada Road. The project also included a new sidewalk and pedestrian lighting on the east side of the road and adjusted existing roadway geometry and striping to formally delineate parking, Class 2 bicycle lanes, vehicular traffic lanes and crosswalks. Coordination with The Parcel project also provided for sewer extension, dry utilities including fiber conduit, and storm drains.

SR203 CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Mammoth Lakes received a Cycle 10 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant in 2021. Staff used the $191,400 grant funds to design and replace existing overhead crosswalk beacons at Laurel Mountain and the Post Office. The redesign of the crosswalk lighting included new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) overhead lighting, advance warning signage and lighting, and new push button pedestrian activators that provide feedback when the system is operating. The project was completed in 2023.

CHAPARRAL ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT

In early 2021, Town Council adopted The Parcel Master Plan, outlining a path forward for the Town to construct up to 580 affordable housing units on the approximately 25-acre Parcel site. The extension of Chaparral Road was identified as being Phase 2 of public infrastructure utilizing Senate Bill 1 (SB1) funds committed from Mono County's SB1 allocation. The project consists of the construction of a new complete street on a "greenfield" forested site, including installation of underground utilities, curb and gutter, sidewalk, multi-use path (MUP), bus shelters, street lighting, landscaping, signage and striping. The work began in 2023 and will be completed in 2024.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 WINTER STORM EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mammoth Lakes experienced extreme and record-setting snow and weather conditions during the winter of 2022/23, leading the Town Manager to proclaim a state of emergency on March 3, and subsequently again on March 27, 2023. Under the emergency declaration, the Town worked with Mono and Inyo Counties and the City of Bishop in supporting a regional Incident Management Team (IMT). Under this structure, the Town received assistance through CalOES for trucking snow, use of conservation camp hand crews, the prepositioning of Urban Search and Rescue Teams and law enforcement support.

On March 15, the Town began emergency trucking operations to remove snow from Town streets and sidewalks. The operation continued through April 7. The Town was initially provided with 14 trucks and a loader and operator through the program. Those resources quickly grew to three loaders, 44 trucks, and several support staff. Our Town road crew stepped up after a long winter of continuous shifts and volunteered to get in loaders and blowers to continue loading trucks as efficiently as possible.

At the start of the program, the crews created additional snow storage for future storms and better lines of sight at intersections, but the main focus was widening roads. This created better emergency access, safer travel routes, and opened more drainage infrastructure for the heavy spring melt we had coming. A few days after Forest Trail and Canyon Boulevard were widened, a propane explosion at Val D'Isere Condominiums occurred allowing emergency vehicle access to the site with the necessary personnel and critical equipment needed to save lives. This event validated the need for this type of work. Additionally, teams of loaders, trucks, and conservation camp hand crews worked with the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District to create access to more than 100 fire hydrants. Additional engine companies were positioned in Town to assist with the high level of calls for service, that included propane leaks from buried tanks.

By the end of the program, crews transported more than 5,700 truckloads of snow to the Old Mammoth Road and the Forest Service snow pits. The 57,000 cubic yards, or 15,000 tons of snow, that equates to 4,625,000 gallons of water flowed towards the Lost Lake Basin and Murphy Gulch – not in the Town's already overloaded storm drain system.

The Mammoth Yosemite Airport worked tirelessly to maintain air service capabilities to assist life flight services and air operations. While the airport did close some days due to heavy snow and road closures, the crew and partners were able to maintain full or limited operations through most of the disaster event. Airport staff assisted Public Works staff in rescuing several individuals who were trapped due to snow conditions on a closed road approximately 14 miles east on Benton Crossing Road.

Town employees worked with a State team doing critical inspections of buildings that were damaged and/or where the structural integrity of the buildings was compromised. The concern of or the collapse of buildings due to snow loading and failures in the structures required them to be "red tagged" by the Town with no or limited occupancy allowed. The Building Department conducted hundreds of emergency inspections to determine the safety of buildings throughout the community. The Town worked with owners and residents to allow safe access back into these structures.

To assist community residents with snow removal from burdened roofs, the Town provided $100,000 in support of the Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation (MMCF) who managed this life-saving community program. A small business grant program was also established to reimburse eligible businesses a portion of added snow removal costs passed on to them from common area management fees.

EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR WORK

In the wake of the historic 2022/23 winter season, many Town roads saw extensive damage and considerably more than the scope of work normally performed by the Town's road crew. The excessive road damage was a result of higher-than-normal use of chained heavy equipment, including loaders, buses, and passenger vehicles, along with continued freeze thaw cycles and heavy spring runoff. The most significant damage included subgrade failure, wide asphalt seam failures, and deep potholing. In spring, Town Council voted to contract out a scope of work developed by the Public Works Department to address the most significant damage via an emergency contract. This gave the Town Manager and Public Works Director the authority to forgo the normal bidding process due to the emergency nature of the work. The Engineering staff, road crew, and the contractor worked to identify a scope of work within the proposed $500,000 budget. The priorities were higher volume arterial roads and severely damaged road segments. The initial scope included Sierra Nevada Road, Commerce Drive, Old Mammoth Road, Meridian Boulevard, and Minaret Road. The emergency road repairs were completed prior to summer for a total cost of $589,000.

EMERGENCY AMENITY REPAIR WORK

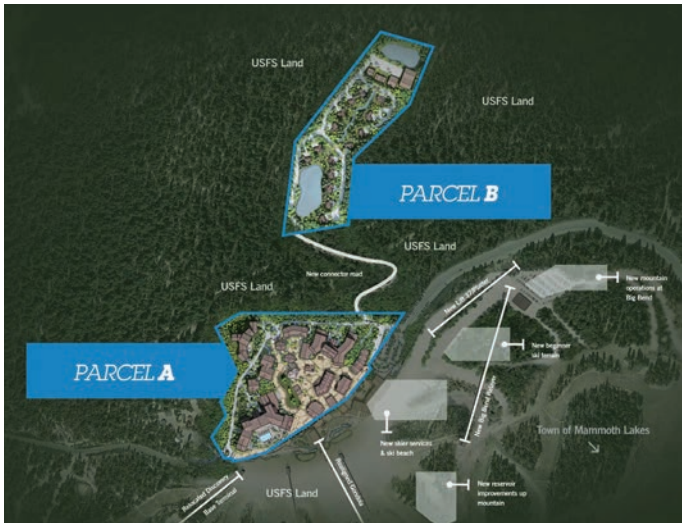
Emergency funding in the amount of $400,000 was allocated for fencing, parks, regulatory, street and way-finding signage, curb, sidewalks, gutter, drainage inlets, ADA required detectable warning surfaces and related repair work. The Town also approved up to $258,000 in emergency fence repair work at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Repair of the perimeter fence was necessary to ensure the safety and security of the Airport. Additional repair work will be completed in 2024 due to the substantial amount of damage incurred by the Town from the record snowfall.

MAJOR PROJECTS AND PERMITS

A number of large development projects progressed in the planning and/or construction phases during 2023.

EVOLVING MAIN – THE MAMMOTH MAIN LODGE PLAN

Planning work continues on the Mammoth Main Lodge Plan (aka Evolving Main), located at 10001 Minaret Road. A Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released in November 2022, and work continued on the drafting of the joint environmental review document in 2023, which is expected to be released for public review in late 2024. Given the large scope and timeline for this project, the Town hired a contract planner to oversee the project. The proposed plan combines diverse overnight accommodations, resort residences, retail, entertainment, food and beverage options and facilities for skiers and summer visitors. In total, new and existing development will include up to 209 resort residential units (up to 560,000 square feet of sellable space), up to 250 lodging keys distributed between several locations, up to 100,000 square feet of commercial space, and up to 105,000 square feet of skier services and support areas.



Photos: Top Left & Bottom - MMSA, Top Right - Dakota Snider

LIMELIGHT RESIDENCES MAMMOTH

The Limelight Hotel, located at 15 Canyon Blvd., was approved in July 2022 and construction began shortly thereafter. Significant progress was made on the concrete shell in 2023 and exterior work will continue throughout 2024. The target completion date for the project is fall 2025. Limelight Residences Mammoth is a new condominium hotel project that consists of six levels of hotel guest rooms and managed residences located above one level of subterranean/ understructure parking. The project includes 149 hotel rooms and 15 residential units with amenities oriented to guests of the hotel including hotel lounge and meeting rooms, a fitness center, "grab-n-go" food options, Ski Club, childcare, equipment rental, and an outdoor pool and jacuzzi terrace.

Website: **limelightresidencesmammoth.com**

OUTBOUND MAMMOTH

The Sierra Nevada Resort Expansion and Renovation (AKA Outbound Mammoth) was approved in April 2022 and construction began later in September. The project includes interior and exterior improvements to the existing 149-unit hotel and Bar Sierra restaurant, the construction of 30 new resort cabin units, an expanded event/meeting space and added amenities for both guests and the community. Construction was completed in December 2023.

Website: **outboundhotels.com/mammoth**

SNOWCREEK VII

Originally approved in three phases in May 2006, Snowcreek VII, made significant progress toward completion in 2023. Phase I was constructed from 2006-2019 (41 units within 12 multi-unit buildings) and Phases II and III were constructed from 2019-Present (72 of 77 units within 25 of 27 multi-unit buildings). The Snowcreek VII project consists of 118 condominium units with four approved building designs. There will be a total of 39 buildings consisting of four duplexes, 26 triplexes, and five fourplexes. The project was substantially completed in 2023 with only two buildings left to complete in 2024.

ADOPTION OF STYROFOAM TAKEOUT CONTAINERS AND PLASTIC BOTTLE BAN

The Town Council expressed interest in reducing single-use plastics within the Town and directed staff to bring forward a prohibition on Styrofoam takeout containers and single-use plastic water bottles. In July 2023, the Town Council adopted a prohibition on Styrofoam foodware containers that became effective January 1, 2024. The Town of Mammoth Lakes will prohibit takeout foodware containers made from expanded polystyrene (EPS) – commonly known as Styrofoam. Banned items include EPS foodware items used for containing, serving, or consuming prepared food, including cups, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, and boxes. These items are usually labeled as plastic #6.

Later in the year, the Town Council adopted a prohibition on single-use plastic water bottles. The prohibition will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will go into effect on January 1, 2025, and will prohibit the use, sales or distribution of single-use plastic water bottles of 500ml or less at Town-affiliated events, including events that require a special event permit from the Town. Phase 2 will go into effect a year later on January 1, 2026. The second phase will prohibit any business from selling or distributing single-use plastic water bottles of 500ml or less within the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES WINS A 2023 RISK MANAGEMENT AWARD

The Town of Mammoth Lakes won a 2023 Risk Management Award from the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) for Best Overall Performance in the Liability Program for municipal agencies with police exposure. More than 80 public agency peers recognized the agency.

The Risk Management Awards highlight dedicated efforts and achievements in risk management by recognizing California JPIA members that have demonstrated effective leadership in the Liability and Workers' Compensation Programs. To select the winners, California JPIA staff evaluated various factors that reflect an organization's risk management efforts, including the cost of claims and the organization's progress toward completing action plan items. The award winners were honored at the California JPIA's Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at the Authority campus in La Palma.

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PATH TO SUCCESS ACADEMY (PSA)

The Town initiated a new training/orientation program called the Path to Success Academy (PSA). PSA is for all new employees and any other employees who may wish to attend. The PSA is intended to be a longer-term orientation for new employees that takes place over the course of a full year. PSA covers a broad range of Town-specific topics to help orient employees to the Town and take a deep dive into the functions and roles of each of the Town's Departments.

The program will be ongoing each year, so any new employee can start the program when they start work at the Town and complete the entire Academy within 12 months. After the first year of the program, 100% of participants surveyed said they had learned something about the Town from the program. According to the survey, new and long-standing employees alike found the program beneficial. We're looking forward to continuing the program into its second year in 2024!

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHANGES TO MLPD STAFFING

The Police Department saw a number of critical staffing changes throughout 2023, which will help to enhance the level of service we are able to provide to the community.

- Formal appointment of Dan Casabian to the position of Police Chief.
- Hiring of former Police Officer Doug Hornbeck as a Reserve Officer.
- Promotion of two Officers to Corporals, a new position created within the department to expand our chain of command in addition to offering leadership positions to our Officers.
- Hiring of a new Officer, Code Compliance Officer, and a Police Recruit.
- Reestablishing the K-9 program and bringing on K-9 Officer Jax in October.
- Promotion of an Officer to Detective.
- Appointment of a new Officer into the School Resource Officer assignment.

GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OHMVR DIVISION

In September, MLPD was awarded a $51,680 Grant from the State of California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMVR) Division for the 2024 Grant Cycle. MLPD applied for this funding to continue to build the Agency's Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) program, which was launched in 2021 with its first Grant award. This new award will be used to purchase a flatbed snowmobile trailer for easier access to staging areas, pay for a covered storage area to protect the vehicles, purchase additional safety and recovery gear to outfit the vehicles and staff, and to reimburse officers' patrol plus administrative costs. Last year's award allowed us to purchase a second snowmobile so that year-round patrols can be conducted. Winter OSV snowmobile patrols will allow MLPD to enforce speed laws in restricted areas, enforce operation of snowmobiles while impaired, verify green sticker registration, provide accident support, and educate the public.

PROPERTY ROOM ACCREDITATION

Accreditation was earned on January 5, 2023, by SCS Northwest Consulting Services, LLC. After almost a full year of dedicated work and restructuring, Mammoth Lakes was the first municipality in California to earn accreditation through this consulting service. This status ensures the integrity of property and evidence from the moment of collection, all the way through proper storage, and finally disposition. There are approximately 194 standards that must be met in order to keep accreditation status. This ensures that MLPD is doing its due diligence and understands the importance of industry best practices to properly serve the criminal justice system and its community. Accreditation is awarded for three years with annual reviews.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DETAIL (SED) TEAM

MLPD joined the Special Enforcement Detail (SED) team comprised of regional local law enforcement agencies including the Mono County Sheriff's Office, Inyo County Sheriff's Office, the Bishop Police Department, and Inyo County District. The SED Team meets and trains monthly to prepare to respond to critical incidents that require specialized training. It also serves to build better teamwork and communication between Inyo and Mono County law enforcement agencies.

RESOLUTION INCREASING FINES FOR PARKING CITATIONS

The MLPD has seen a significant increase in non-compliance with parking laws over the last several years. This is especially prevalent during the winter months, when drivers choose to pay a citation in order to park closer to the ski lifts. The number of complaints regarding illegal parking, the incidents of illegal parking blocking roads and impeding access to residences and business has dramatically increased. The Town Council, passed a resolution on September 6, that increased parking-related citation fines effective November 1, 2023. Most parking fines increased from $45 to $110. Additional increases are in place for illegal parking in a handicapped zone, in front of a fire hydrant or in a fire lane, and obstructing snow removal equipment. To help facilitate increased citation volumes, the Department has purchased three additional digital, mobile ticketing devices from Data Ticket. These new devices are also capable of issuing municipal code violations.

EVERY 15 MINUTES

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, the MLPD, in conjunction with the Bridgeport Office of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Mammoth High School (MHS), conducted a simulated drunk driving traffic collision as part of the "Every 15 Minutes" program. Every 15 Minutes is a two-day program designed to demonstrate to high school students the impact drinking and driving has on friends, families, and their community. The first day of the program was highlighted by a simulated traffic collision involving an impaired teenage driver and fatally injured victims. The event included emergency response from police, fire, ambulance, the coroner, tow trucks companies and helicopter, just as an actual collision would require. The program concluded with an assembly with guest speakers for students the next day.

NEW AXON BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND TASERS

MLPD invested $140,000 in new body-worn cameras and tasers for the Officers. Footage from body-worn cameras helps ensure accountability for both law enforcement officials and members of the public. Body-worn cameras are now a regular part of law enforcement procedures. They serve to protect Officers, deter crime, and ensure that the truth is captured during incidents for both the Town and for the public. The new AXON tasers integrate seamlessly with the body cameras to more effectively document taser deployments.

MLPD SPEED WATCH AND JAMAR RADAR RECORDERS

In June, MLPD implemented a new program named "MLPD Speed Watch." This program established a dedicated email address for concerned citizens to report traffic issues that they witness throughout Town. These include speeding, stop sign violations, failures to stop at crosswalks, and numerous other violations. The program was so successful that we had dozens of emails with specific areas of concern within two days of the email address going live.

To address concerns of excessive speeding on numerous streets throughout Town, specifically in areas congested with pedestrians and crosswalks, two JAMAR Radar Recorders were purchased. These convenient, pole-mounted units allow us to discreetly collect data without an officer present.

HISPANIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

MLPD also relaunched the Hispanic Outreach Program for the first time in several years. The first event was a public forum at Mammoth High School on June 23, 2023. The forum was designed as an opportunity for us to listen, learn and address any concerns, questions, or suggestions from all members of the community. Our officers discussed police procedures, community initiatives, and resources available to address any issue. MLPD will be hosting another forum in the future.

AIRPORT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AIR SERVICE

Advanced Air provided flights to Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) from Burbank (BUR), Carlsbad (CLD), and Hawthorne - LA (HHR) during the 2022/23 winter months and to Carlsbad and Hawthorne during the summer months. United Airlines offered flights to Eastern Sierra Regional Airport (BIH) in Bishop from San Francisco (SFO) and Denver (DEN) during winter months and San Francisco during summer months.

TERMINAL REMODEL

To provide an elevated experience for passengers traveling to and from the Mammoth Yosemite Airport, Town staff, along with our partners at Hot Creek Aviation remodeled the existing terminal building. Now Advanced Air passengers are able to check-in at the larger terminal offering delicious food and beverage items at the café with new flooring and furniture to create a cozy and enjoyable travel experience. In addition to the remodel, the Town worked with Mono Arts Council (MAC) to display and sell artists' work out of the terminal. Mono Arts Council is a non-profit organization that provides local programs for art, dance, theater, music, and media arts.

AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN UPDATE

An update of the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) was completed and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in February 2023. The ALP is a 20-year outlook on potential development at the airport. An objective of ALPs is to review the feasibility of projects and display safety clearances and project configurations. Any new construction at the airport must be represented on the approved ALP prior to construction.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES WAS AWARDED TWO GRANTS FOR MAMMOTH YOSEMITE AIRPORT

The Town was awarded two grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), totaling $235,625. The grants are to be used for a Pavement Maintenance Management Program update and General Aviation and Terminal Parking Lot Reconstruction design at Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM (AWOS) RELOCATION AND UPGRADE PROGRESS

In July 2023, construction began on the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Relocation and Upgrade project. All the underground work was completed during the summer of 2023. The remaining construction was put on hold in September and will be continued and completed in spring of 2024. The project scope of work includes relocating the AWOS to a new location just west of the existing location to allow for space to construct a new building. The AWOS equipment is also being upgraded at the time of relocation.

CALDART ANNUAL EXERCISE

CalDART (California Disaster Airlift Response Teams) is building a statewide network of disaster airlift response teams to improve California's disaster resilience. CalDART is composed of volunteer pilots who are available to aid in disaster relief. For example, during the 2023 snow disaster in San Bernadino, CalDART delivered 21,000 pounds of needed supplies from the valley into communities in the mountains that were snowed in for several weeks. In May 2023, CalDART ran an exercise where pilots flew into airports around the state, including Mammoth Yosemite Airport to practice a delivery of "supplies." The exercise helps improve safe operations, build awareness and relationships, and assist CalDART with practicing a statewide, larger mobilization.

LEADERSHIP

TOWN COUNCIL

John Wentworth | Mayor
Bill Sauser | Mayor Pro Tem
Chris Bubser | Councilmember
Sarah Rea | Councilmember
Amanda Rice | Councilmember

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Daniel C. Holler | Town Manager
Andrew Morris | Town Attorney
Stuart Brown | Parks and Recreation Director & Public Information Officer
Dan Casabian | Acting Police Chief
Jamie Gray | Town Clerk
Haislip Hayes | Public Works Director & Town Engineer
Pam Kobylarz | Assistant to the Town Manager
Nolan Bobroff | Acting Community & Economic Development Director
Sandra Moberly | Community & Economic Development Director
Rob Patterson | Administrative Services & Finance Director
Lawson Reif | Outdoor Recreation Manager

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Michael Vanderhurst | Chair
Jennifer Burrows | Vice Chair
Paul Chang | Commissioner
Greg Eckert | Commissioner
Jessica Kennedy | Commissioner

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Dan O'Connell | Chair
Silver Chesak | Vice Chair
Greg Newbry | Commissioner
Scott Reif | Commissioner
Ben Wisner | Commissioner

Photo: Angela Plaisted

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Photo: Angela Plaisted